

# Miller County Health Center

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millercountyhealth.com



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Recent rise of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Miller County, Missouri

The Miller County Health Center has had nearly 100 new cases of COVID-19 among Miller County residents reported over the last 4 weeks. Currently we have an active caseload of 42 known cases. Of the new recent cases, five are known to have required hospitalization and one known death.

It is important to understand that the COVID-19 rapid antigen test is now available over the counter. They can be purchased at many retailers and are free from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Not all residents that get a positive test result will report it to public health. In addition, many residents elect to not get tested when they are ill. Therefore, we must assume that the data on our dashboard is significantly underreported.

Why do we have an increase of cases? Most disease prevention practices have ceased over recent weeks. People are traveling, gathering in groups, not wearing masks, and what is most important in Miller County, not getting vaccinated. Only 20% of Miller County residents have been vaccinated. Miller County has the lowest rates in Central Missouri and far below the state rate of 50%. Vaccination hesitation within our community will result in continued outbreaks, hospitalizations, and deaths. The vaccines are virtually 100% in preventing hospitalizations and deaths.

Many of the new cases are associated with the workplace including restaurants, resorts, and factories. The Miller County Health Center applauds the businesses that have strongly encouraged their staff to get vaccinated!

**Vaccinated employees result in less sick time used and NO QUARANTINE WHEN EXPOSED!** If you are a business owner/manager and have several employees to be vaccinated, we might be able to come to you to save you time and resources!

**The next vaccination clinic at the Miller County Health Center will be Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 3 at 2125 Highway 52 in Tuscumbia.** The vaccine will be Moderna and a second dose clinic will be scheduled approximately four weeks later. Please call 573-369-2400 or visit <http://millercountyhealth.com/covid-19> to register. Walk ins are welcome.

Of the 5,221 Miller County residents vaccinated, **only** four have subsequently been diagnosed with COVID-19 (commonly known as breakthrough cases) and none of those required hospitalization reporting mild symptoms. The vaccines are highly effective!

Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 (even with a rapid home kit) are directed to isolate in their home and not go to work, school, or anywhere in public. The Miller County Health Center shall work closely with the infected person to assure their close contacts are notified to quarantine, monitor for fever and respiratory symptoms, and discuss testing options.

It remains very important that each and every one of us continue to practice preventative measures to help keep the spread of communicable diseases to a minimum. These measures, include: social distancing and proper use of masks for the unvaccinated, proper hand-washing, no touching of the face, cleaning frequently used surfaces, and avoid sick people, or if sick yourself, stay home and call your health care provider. This includes a fever of 100.4 or greater, any symptoms that are similar to a cold or flu, diarrhea, and a loss of sense of taste or smell, no matter how mild the symptom.

We will continue to update our website's dashboard with number of reported cases, number of active cases, and very basic demographics at millercountyhealth.com. For the most up to date information, like Miller County Health Center on Facebook @millercountyhealth.

Better Health. Better Miller County. Please get vaccinated!

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